

grasshopper, by a majority vote we decided to call it a day. The major part of the wood is owned by the Woodland Trust, and we offer them our thanks for allowing us to study insects in the wood.

Dungeness, Kent, 29 September 1990

Leader: **R. Dyke**. With a southerly wind blowing and after finding a convolvulus hawk-moth, *Agrius convolvuli* (L.) on the famous railway sleepers, hopes were high for the coming night's trapping. Even when it began to pour with rain, anticipation was not dampened. Unfortunately results did not quite come up to expectations although two more *Agrius convolvuli* at m.v. light were very welcome. All the local moths turned up, therefore most of the 11 members and friends who attended went home fairly happy. The following is a list of species seen at light or sugar: *Udea ferrugalis* (Hübner.), *Nomophila noctuella* (D. & S.), *Idea seriata* (Schr.), *Opisthograptis luteolata* (L.), *Ennomos alniaria* (L.), *Aspitates ochrearia* (Rossi), *Agrius convolvuli* (L.), *Agrotis segetum* (D. & S.), *A. ipsilon* (Hufn.), *A. puta* ssp. *puta* (Hübner.) *Noctua pronuba* (Hufn.), *N. comes* (Hübner.), *Paradiarsia glareosa* ssp. *glareosa* (Esp.), *Xestia c-nigrum* (L.), *Xestia xanthographa* (D. & S.), *Mamestra brassicae* (L.), *Lacanobia oleracea* (L.), *Aporophyla australis pascuea* (Humph. & Westw.), *Aporophyla nigra* (Haw.), *Polymixis flavicincta* (D. & S.), *Eumichtis lichenea* ssp. *lichenea* (Hübner.), *Agrochola lota* (Clerk), *Omphaloscelis lunosa* (Haw.), *Xanthia togata* (Esp.), *Xanthia ictiritia* (Hufn.), *Phlogophora meticulosa* (L.), *Luperina testacea* (D. & S.), *Nonagria typhae* (Thunb.), *Autographa gamma* (L.).

Bure Marshes NNR, Norfolk, 6 October 1990

Leader: **A. P. Foster**. The leader was the sole attendant at this daytime meeting on a very windy, though warm autumn day. Among the species recorded during the morning, on the Woodbastwick Marshes section of the NNR, was an abundance of the flea beetle, *Longitarsus rubiginosus* (Foud.) on the bindweed *Calystegia sepium* (L.).

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

New records of some *Geomyza* species (Diptera: Opomyzidae).—I had the unusual experience in June 1990 of finding two species of *Geomyza* new to me from Britain although I had found one of them previously in France. Although the species of the family Opomyzidae develop in grasses, several are rather poorly known as indicated by Collin (1945) who keyed the British species of the family. Little other than occasional records of some of the less common species have been published in this country since, apart from the addition of *Geomyza angustipennis* Zett., recognized by having no wing marking other than the apical spot, by Andrewes (1964).

The other addition to the British list was made by Vockeroth (1961) who drew attention to the confusion by Collin (1945) of two species under the name *combinata* (L.) and figured the genitalia of both species from British specimens. The more frequent of them, *balachowskyi* Mesnil (1934) is included in the British check list (Kloet & Hincks, 1976), which omitted the other species for which Vockeroth had used the name *combinata*, because the use of the name was dubious as discussed by Cogan & Dear (1975) who reported that Linnaeus's type of *combinata* was not a *Geomyza*. The name *combinata* has, however, been used in the subsequent European

literature (e.g. Martinek, 1978; Soós, 1984) and it would be desirable for its usage to be fixed and the name of the second British species to be clarified to avoid further confusion. Both species are apparently widespread in Britain but much material in collections needs to be checked to determine whether their distribution differs.

Collin (1945) stated that he had not seen a British specimen of *venusta* Meigen, although it appeared in the 1976 check list without qualification. Confirmation of its presence here was provided when A. A. Allen collected it on chalk downland at Downe, Kent in 1973 and 1980 (Allen, 1977; 1982). Then Clemons (1984) added another Kentish record from a chalk grassland site near Gillingham. On 16.vi.1990, at Aston Rowant NNR, Bucks., I found the species to be present amongst long grass both on the roadside verge adjacent to the reserve (on the clay with flints capping the area) and in a small enclosed area containing taller vegetation on the lower slopes within this chalk downland reserve; three males and three females were collected. *G. venusta* is apparently frequent in parts of Europe and I had collected it previously in herb-rich meadows in France (Lot), near Payrac, 14.x.1978 and St Martin en Vers, 24.vi.1980. It resembles "*combinata*" and *balachowskyi* in general coloration but differs in the genital structure and the absence of clouding on the r-m cross vein.

On 24.vi.1990, during the Society's field meeting at Slab Common, Hants, I swept a single male of *Geomyza* which proved to be *majuscula* Loew, from marginal vegetation by a small pond adjoining carr in a valley subject to much disturbance by military manoeuvres. Collin (1945) recorded this species as new to Britain on females from Chippenham and Burwell Fens, Cambs., and I am unaware of any more recent published British records, although Speight (1979) recorded a female from a lakeside fen in Co. Clare, Ireland. *G. majuscula* resembles the very common species *tripunctata* Fall. but is a little larger and may be distinguished by the characters given by Collin (1945). It was described from Austria and occurrence in southern Europe without further detail is indicated by Soós (1984).—P. J. Chandler, Weston Research Laboratories, Vanwall Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4UF.

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